

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)**  
**Meeting of the Policy Committee**  
**Friday, January 24, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**TCL New River Campus Board Room – Bluffton, SC**

*LCOG staff sent agenda packets to Policy Committee members and posted an agenda in the lobby of the LCOG office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting time.*

**Policy Committee Members Present:**

Chairman David Blauch, LRTA Board  
Chairman Henry Etheridge, Jasper County Council  
Commissioner Craig Forrest, SCDOT  
Mayor Drew Laughlin, Town of Hilton Head Island  
Commissioner Harrison Reardon, SCDOT  
Chairman Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council  
Mayor Lisa Sulka, Town of Bluffton

**Policy Committee Designees Present: None**

**Policy Committee Members Absent:**

Mayor Bronco Bostick, City of Hardeeville  
Sen. Tom Davis, Beaufort County Leg. Delegation Chairman  
Rep. Bill Herbkersman, Jasper County Leg. Delegation Chairman  
Mayor Samuel E. Murray, Town of Port Royal  
Commissioner Jim Rosier, SCDOT

**Technical Committee Members Present:**

James Ayers, Town of Bluffton\*  
Rochelle Ferguson, LRTA Executive Director  
Jill Foster, Town of Hilton Head Island  
Karen Jarrett, Town of Bluffton  
Colin Kinton, Beaufort County

**Technical Committee Members Absent:**

Linda Bridges, Town of Port Royal  
Bryan Hill, Beaufort County \*  
Lauren Kelly, City of Beaufort  
Bob McFee, Beaufort County \*  
Bob Nanni, City of Hardeeville  
Darrin Shoemaker, Town of Hilton Head Island \*

**(\*) Non-voting Member**

**LCOG Staff Present:**

Chris Bickley, Executive Director  
Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director  
Jonathan Sherwood, Community and Regional Planner

**SCDOT Staff Present**

Mike Sullivan, Engineer, SCDOT Office of Environment and Planning  
Diane Lackey, SCDOT Transit Program Manager  
David Gray, SCDOT Office of Transit

**FHWA Staff Present:**

Jessica Hekter, Community Planner & Real Estate Manager

## 1. Call to Order

Chairman, Mayor Laughlin called the meeting to order.

### a. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Laughlin led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

### b. Invocation

Mr. Etheridge led the invocation

### c. Welcome New Member Sen. Tom Davis

Policy board members announced Sen. Davis as a new member of the LATs Policy Board.

### d. Introduction of Members, Guest and Staff

Mayor Laughlin asked those in attendance to make introductions.

## 2. Old Business

### a. Final approval of the Public Participation Plan (PPP).

Mr. Bickley recommended approval of the PPP after changes were made per the Policy Committee's suggestions. Mayor Sulka made a motion to approve the PPP, Mr. Etheridge seconded and passed unanimously.

### b. Meeting Minutes – 10.14.13

Mr. Blauch made a motion to approve the minutes from the 10.14.13 MPO meeting, Commissioner Forrest seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## 3. New Business

### a. Presentation on changes to Federal Transit Agency (FTA) Formula Program due to the 2010 Census - Diane Lackey, SCDOT Transit Program Manager.

Ms. Lackey explained that the Hilton Head – Bluffton area is now designated a Small Urbanized Area after the 2010 Census and MPO formation. Previously it was classified rural. Changes apply to transit funds apportioned at the beginning of FFY2013. Changes also require a Designated Recipient to participate with local and state planning officials via the LATs MPO, LRTP, and PPP. The funding is reimbursement for transit activities; including operations, capital, and planning activities. A resolution by all jurisdictions within the Small Urbanized Area and an opinion by counsel naming the Direct Recipient will be required. After this has occurred the Governor, acting through SCDOT, will endorse the Direct Recipient.

Mr. Etheridge asked about parts of the region outside the boundary of the small urban area. Ms. Lackey said that the rural areas would remain under 5311 funds and programing would remain separate. Ms. Lackey wanted to make clear federal funding doesn't reimburse for all expenses. Mr. Bickley emphasized that the Small Urban Area includes the Town of Bluffton, Town of Hilton Head Island and the unincorporated areas of Beaufort County between the Towns. The Small urbanized area does not have the same boundaries as the MPO.

Mayor Sulka asked about what the changes would mean for the potential for ferry service for Daufuskie Island, as the issue is asked about at many public meetings. Ms. Lackey noted that the issue has been heard at the transit office and the conversation should be broadened to include the U.S. Coast Guard. Commissioner Forrest warned against using transit funds for a ferry service because it would take funds away from the existing transit service provided by LRTA.

Ms. Lackey noted that the Direct Recipient must maintain reporting and compliance standards. LRTA already has experience with compliance review with SCDOT and other review with the FTA. Mr. Blauch suggested that the contact person for the Direct Recipient should be the Executive Director of LRTA as opposed to the Board Chair of LRTA.

Mr. Bickley emphasized that the resolution does not mean that the jurisdictions (Beaufort County, Town of Bluffton, and the Town of Hilton Head Island) would have direct involvement or control over the everyday activities of the Direct Recipient.

Mayor Laughlin asked if the Direct Recipient could be different from the area transit agency. Mr. Bickley noted that LRTA is the only qualified agency in the Lowcountry. Ms. Kozak added that other areas have multiple transit agencies, making the process more difficult, while the Lowcountry has one. Ms. Lackey noted that LRTA already conducts a compliance review as well as the FTA oversight procedures through SCDOT. Mayor Sulka thought it would be a good idea for the technical committee to study what other MPOs have done as far as selecting a Direct Recipient. Ms. Lackey noted that the Sumter MPO would be a good example as they have a Small Urban Area as well. She added that Anderson and Florence are municipalities that are direct recipients.

**a. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Progress Report – Ginnie Kozak**

Ms. Kozak gave an update on the consultant's progress with the LRTP. She noted the launch of the online survey and Facebook page as part of the Public Participation Plan (PPP). She encouraged the jurisdictions to link the survey to their respective websites.

**4. Other Business**

None.

**5. Adjourn**

Mayor Laughlin asked for a motion to adjourn at 11:30. Chairman Blauch made the motion, Commissioner Forrest seconded, and it passed unanimously.